4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

This chapter consists of 12 sections, each of which presents the analysis of the alternatives within an environmental discipline. Each section includes the following information:

- A short introduction
- Impacts Evaluated in Other Sections: A summary of where to find topics associated with the section's analysis that are addressed elsewhere in the EIR.
- Affected Environment (Setting): A description of the existing conditions for each environmental discipline. The setting acts as a baseline to which the analysis compares to the effects of the alternatives and project components. Pursuant to Section 15125 of the state CEQA Guidelines, the environmental settings have been prepared at a level of detail necessary to provide an understanding of the significant effects of the proposed project and its alternatives.
- Evaluation Criteria with Points of Significance: A table presenting the criteria used to determine the specific impacts, measurements used to determine whether an impacts is "significant," and the point at which the impact becomes significant. The source and justification for each criterion is also identified in the table.
- Methodology: A brief description of how the impact analysis was done.
- Environmental Consequences (Impacts) and Recommended Mitigation: A presentation of the results of the environmental analysis for each discipline, including the identification of impacts, the determination regarding significance, the description of mitigation measures proposed to avoid or lessen impacts, and whether mitigation will reduce the effects to less than significant. The impact analyses have been prepared to comply with Section 15143 of the CEQA Guidelines that states that the "significant effects should be discussed with emphasis in proportion to their severity and probability of occurrence."
- Cumulative Impacts: The cumulative impacts analyses describe impacts of the proposed project that exceed the relevant impact evaluation criteria only when considered together with changes in the environment resulting from the cumulative development scenario. If cumulative impacts are found to be significant, mitigation measures are proposed to require the project applicant to avoid or minimize that portion of the cumulative impact that can be attributed to the project.